

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00958 280638Z

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ACTION AF-06

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P R 271509Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1656

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS LUSAKA 0958

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, ZA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KAUNDA ANNOUNCES NEW PRIME MINISTER, OTHER
MINISTERIAL, PARTY AND DIPLOMATIC CHANGES

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT KAUNDA ANNOUNCED RESIGNATION OF PRIMIN
MAINZA CHONA AND APPOINTMENT IN HIS PLACE OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE
MEMBER ELIJAH MUDENDA. OTHER CHANGES ANNOUNCED INCLUDE RUPIAH
BANDA TO REPLACE VERNON MWAANGA AS FONMIN. MWAANGA MOVES TO
CENTRAL COMMITTEE. ANNEL SILUNGWE NAMED NEW CHIEF JUSTICE.
ALL PROVINCIAL CABINET MINISTERS RESHUFFLED. NUMEROUS CHANGES
AMONG MINISTERS OF STAT AND PERMANENT SECRETARIES ALSO
ANNOUNCED. CHANGES IN DIPLOMATIC CORPS FORECAST BUT NOT
ANNOUNCED AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00958 280638Z

2. PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS WERE INVITED MAY 27 TO

ATTEND PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE ON "STATE OF THE NATION" AT LUSAKA'S MULUNGUSHI HALL. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS INSTEAD WERE ALMOST ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO ANNOUNCING NUMEROUS PARTY AND GOVT CHANGES. WITH SOME EMOTION, PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED HE HAD WITH GREAT REGRET AGREED TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF PRIMIN MAINZA CHONA. IN DOING SO, PRESIDENT STRESSED THAT CHONA HAD FROM TIME TO TIME ASKED TO BE RELEASED FROM HIS POST AND HAD BEEN REFUSED. OF LATE HE HAD AGAIN TOLD PRESIDENT HE UNABLE TO CONTINUE. PRESIDENT THEN READ LETTER TO CHONA (WHO SAT NEXT TO HIM), EXPRESSING CONTINUED CONFIDENCE IN HIS INTEGRITY AND SATISFACTION WITH HIS SERVICES. LETTER ADDED THAT PRESIDENT UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT PROMPTED CHONA TO RESIGN BUT RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED THAT DECISION. AS CHONA HAD INDICATED PREVIOUSLY WILLINGNESS SERVE IN ANY OTHER CAPACITY PRESIDENT DESIRED, PRESIDENT NAMED HIM TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF LEGAL AFFAIRS.

2. TO REPLACE CHONA, PRESIDENT NAMED ELIJAH MUDENDA, FORMER FONMIN AND SINCE DECEMBER 1973 MEMBER OF PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND CHAIRMAN OF ITS SUBCOMMITTEE ON POLITICAL, CONSTITUTIONAL, LEGAL, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. SEVERAL OTHER CENTRAL COMMITTEE CHANGES ALSO ANNOUNCED. JETHRO MUTTI TO RESIGN JUNE 3 "TO GO INTO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE". FINE LIBOMA, NOW CABINET MINISTER FOR CENTRAL PROVINCE, JOINS CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND WILL ASSUME MUTTI'S FORMER FUNCTIONS AS YOUTH BRIGADE SECRETARY. FONMIN VERNON MWAANGA ALSO NAMED TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE REPLACING MUDENDA. WITHIN CENTRAL COMMITTEE REUBEN KAMANGA TAKES OVER MUDENDA'S FORMER SUBCOMMITTEE WHILE FRANK CHITAMBALA MOVES UP TO REPLACE KAMANGA AS CHAIRMAN OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE. MWAANGA WILL SERVE AS DEPUTY TO CHITAMBALA.

4. OTHER CABINET CHANGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. RUPIAH BANDA, AMBASSADOR TO UN, REPLACES MWAANGA AS FONMIN

B. J.B.A. SIYOMUNJI, CENTRAL PROVINCE MINISTER VICE LIBOMA

C. JOSEPH MUTALE, FROM DEPUTY SPEAKER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 LUSAKA 00958 280638Z

TO COPPERBELT PROVINCE MINISTER VICE AXOM CHALIKULIMA
WHO TRANSFERRED TO DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

D. SYLVESTER CHISEMBELE, EASTERN PROVINCE MINISTER VICE
WILLIAM NKAMZA

E. WILLIE MWONDELA, LUAPULA PROVINCE MINISTER VICE BASIL
KABWE

F. MATIYA NGALANDE, FROM AMB IN NAIROBI TO NORTHERN PROVINCE
MINISTER VICE UNIA MWILA

G. SYLVESTER TEMO, FROM MIN OF STATE FOR COMMERCE TO NORTH
WESTERN PROVINCE MINISTER VICE AMOCK PHIRI WHO IS
SUSPENDED FROM PARTY AND GOVT EMPLOYMENT

H. UNIA MWILA, SOUTHERN PROVINCE MINISTER VICE MWONDELA

I. WILLIAM NKANZA, WESTERN PROVINCE MINISTER VICE SIYOMUNJI

5. AMONG OTHER TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS AT MINISTER OF STATE AND
PERMANENT SECRETARY LEVEL ARE THOSE OF MWIKA M. TAMBATAMBA TO BE
SECOND MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND INDUSTRY; SECRETARY TO
CABINET PATRICK CHISANGA TO BE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY AT UNIP
HEADQUARTERS; SUNDIE KAZANGA TO REPLACE CHISANGA; DANCEWELL BOWA;
LOMBE CHIBESAKUNDA, AND NDOLA MAYOR LEONDARD SHAMOYA TO FOREIGN
DIPLOMATIC POSTS TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER; AND PUTTEHO NGONDA, HICOM
IN LONDON, TO BE FONMIN PERMSECY REPLACING JULIAN MASANINGA WHO
BECOMES CHISANGA'S DEPUTY AT FREEDOM HOUSE. FULL LIST OF THESE
CHANGES WILL BE SUBMITTED BY AIRGRAM.

6. PRESIDENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT RATHER THAN WAIT UNTIL CHIEF
JUSTICE BRIAN DOYLE RETIRES NEXT YEAR, HE ACTING NOW TO APPOINT
MINISTER OF LEGAL AFFAIRS ANNEL SILUNGWE TO ZAMBIA'S HIGHEST
JUDICIAL POST. DOYLE PRESENTLY ON LEAVE ABROAD AND WILL BE "OFFERED
ANOTHER JOB IF HE WISHES" UPON HIS RETURN. IN MAKING THIS
ANNOUNCEMENT PRESIDENT STRESSED HIS DESIRE THAT JUDICIARY
BECOME A "PEOPLES JUDICIARY" AND THAT SYSTEM OF JUSTICE BECOME
"TRULY ZAMBIAN" IN SPIRIT OF HUMANISM.

7. EMBASSY COMMENTS SEPTTEL.
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PAGE 04 LUSAKA 00958 280638Z

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